

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[ ]]. Any cancellations are without prejudice.

1. (Currently amended) A water-jet propulsion personal watercraft comprising:  
a body including a hull and a deck covering the deck from above;  
a water jet pump disposed on a rear portion of the body and configured to propel the watercraft;

an engine mounted forward relative to the water jet pump within the body and configured to drive the water jet pump;

a propeller shaft configured to connect the engine to the water jet pump;

a coupling mechanism disposed behind the engine and configured to connect an output shaft of the engine to the propeller shaft; and

an air cleaner box disposed behind the engine and above the coupling mechanism within the body **and connected to an air-intake pipe of the engine, the air cleaner box having an air inlet which opens within an engine room which is formed within the body, and the air cleaner box being** configured to take in air **through the air inlet** for the engine from outside the watercraft.

2. (Original) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 1, wherein the engine is a four-cycle engine.

3. (Currently amended) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 2, wherein the air cleaner box is supported by the body and is connected to [[an]] the air-intake pipe of the engine through a flexible connecting pipe.

4. (Original) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a storage box removably mounted behind and adjacent the air cleaner box, the storage box being mounted into the body from above.

5. (Currently amended) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 4, further comprising:

a first opening provided at a position of the deck above the engine;

a second opening provided to be spaced apart from and behind the first opening,

wherein

the storage box is removably fitted to the second opening, and

the air cleaner box is supported by an upper wall of the deck between the first and second openings and connected to [[an]] the air-intake pipe of the engine through a flexible connecting pipe.

6. (Currently amended) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 1, wherein the air inlet of the air cleaner box ~~has an air inlet, and a cover is~~ covered with a cover ~~configured to cover the air inlet~~ such that a gap is formed between the air inlet and the cover.

7. (Original) The water jet-propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 6, wherein the air inlet of the air cleaner box is provided on an upper portion of the air cleaner box, and the air cleaner box is provided with an air guide pipe having the air inlet and an outlet and extending downward from the air inlet to a lower portion of the air cleaner box within the air cleaner box.

8. (Original) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 7, wherein the air inlet is provided in a concave portion formed on an upper portion of a front wall of the air cleaner box.

9. (Original) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 6, wherein the air cleaner box has a separating wall provided inside thereof and configured to divide an internal space into a plurality of sub-spaces, and a communicating passage is provided on the separating wall to allow the sub-spaces to fluidically communicate with each other.

10. (New) A water-jet propulsion personal watercraft comprising:  
a body including a hull and a deck covering the deck from above;

a water jet pump disposed on a rear portion of the body and configured to propel the watercraft;

an engine mounted forward relative to the water jet pump within the body and configured to drive the water jet pump;

a propeller shaft configured to connect the engine to the water jet pump;

a coupling mechanism disposed behind the engine and configured to connect an output shaft of the engine to the propeller shaft; and

an air cleaner box disposed behind the engine and above the coupling mechanism within the body and configured to take in air for the engine from outside the watercraft;

wherein the engine is a four-cycle engine; and

wherein the air cleaner box is supported by the body and is connected to an air-intake pipe of the engine through a flexible connecting pipe.

11. (New) A water-jet propulsion personal watercraft comprising:

a body including a hull and a deck covering the deck from above;

a water jet pump disposed on a rear portion of the body and configured to propel the watercraft;

an engine mounted forward relative to the water jet pump within the body and configured to drive the water jet pump;

a propeller shaft configured to connect the engine to the water jet pump;

a coupling mechanism disposed behind the engine and configured to connect an output shaft of the engine to the propeller shaft;

an air cleaner box disposed behind the engine and above the coupling mechanism within the body and configured to take in air for the engine from outside the watercraft; and

a storage box removably mounted behind and adjacent the air cleaner box, the storage box being mounted into the body from above;

wherein the engine is a four-cycle engine.

12. (New) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to claim 11, further comprising:

a first opening provided at a position of the deck above the engine; and

a second opening provided to be spaced apart from and behind the first opening;

wherein the storage box is removably fitted to the second opening; and

wherein the air cleaner box is supported by an upper wall of the deck between the first and second openings and connected to an air-intake pipe of the engine through a flexible connecting pipe.